The National Park Service in the Next 100 Years

DO NOT LET THE SERVICE BECOME JUST ANOTHER EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT BUREAU; KEEP IT YOUTHFUL,

VIGOROUS, CLEAN, AND STRONG.

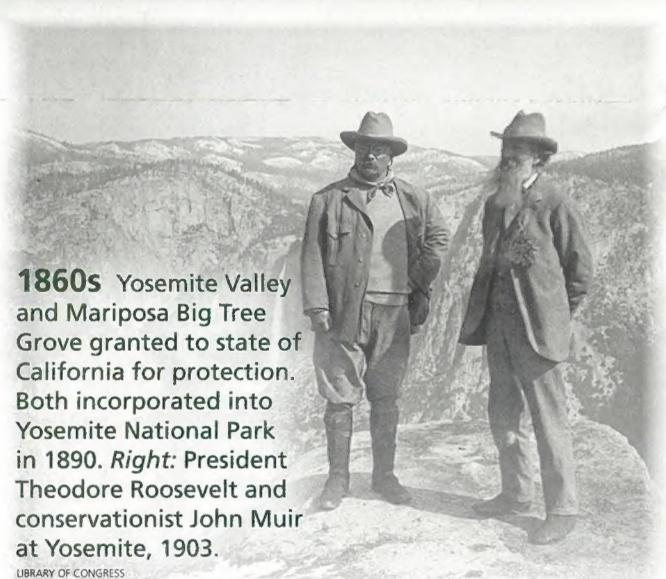
In 1916 Congress created the National Park Service to oversee America's beloved places. While the first century has focused on the agency's dual mission of stewardship and enjoyment, its reach now extends across geographical and cultural frontiers—far beyond the original notion of a "park." Besides the 400-plus parks in the National Park System, the NPS

oversees national trails, national heritage areas, wild and scenic rivers, and many other places and programs. We spearhead learning initiatives, help communities preserve their distinct heritage, share our expertise across international boundaries, adapt to the evolving needs of our visitors and partners,

As America's story changes, so do the ways it is told. Today's parks are about everything from atomic bombs to zooplankton, from Ice Age migrations to 21st century immigration. Below is a brief description of our growth and evolution over the first 100 years, along with a look at the many paths forward.



Shaping the National Park System



1920s George Melendez Wright (below), first chief of NPS wildlife division, begins formal studies of wild species, especially those endangered. Today **George Wright Society** continues his holistic viev of park management.



parks and monuments and Forest Service's national monuments transferred to NPS management. Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration (above) build roads, trails, and visitor centers in national and state parks. TOP LEFT—GERALD WILLIAMS COLLECTION, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY; TOP RIGHT—NATIONAL ARCHIVES

1960s Wilderness Act **USA** and other federal laws WORK strengthen protection of wild lands, preserve historic sites, and create systems WPA to manage wild rivers and trails like the Appalachian Trail (below).

1930s War Department's

Reaching Beyond Park Boundaries

GET CONNECTED Parks tell America's story and connect us to our history, our environment, ourselves, and each other. Like a thread in a giant tapestry, each of our indi-

The NPS is a valued leader

in formal and informal

education. You're never

too young or too old to

tional Parks are the ideal

learn something new. Na-

vidual stories contributes



National Park.

to the American narrative. Below: Women at the National Park of American Samoa celebrate the anniversary of the US territory.

parks are critical to protecting Earth. Many parks protect endangered species or vestiges of intact ecosystems. As such, they are valuable research laboratories. The NPS works with the worldwide scientific and conservation community to study air and water quality, climate changes, migratory species, and other issues. Left: Volunteer "citizen scientists" at Gates of the Arctic National Park.

PLANET HEALTH National



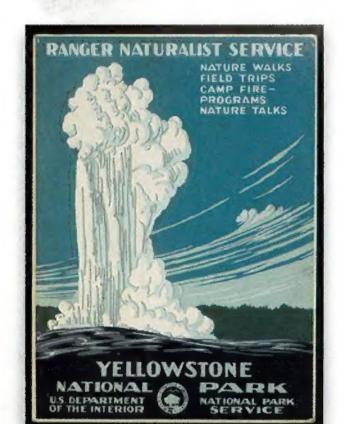
PLACES OF HEALING Parks promote mental, physical, and spiritual health. Outdoor places help restore us physically, emotionally, creatively, and spiritually. By linking

people to nature and to one another, parks inspire healthier choices and help build more vibrant communities. Above: Kayakers at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

GET INSPIRED National

Parks enliven the human

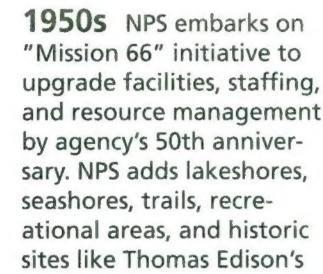
only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in.—John Muir

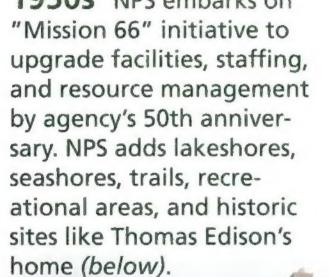


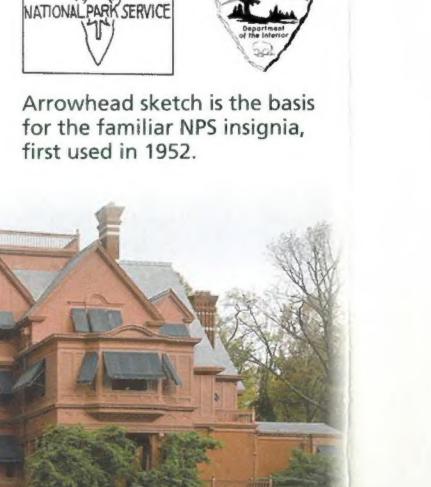
1870s Yellowstone established in 1872, world's first national park. More national parks soon follow.

1900s Antiquities Act authorizes presidents to set aside federal lands as national monuments.

1916 August 25: Organic Act creates National Park Service and places existing parks and monuments under its oversight. First NPS director is businessman and conservationist Stephen T. Mather (left).

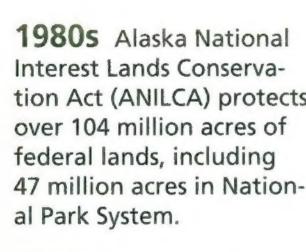






Totem pole from Sitka National Historical Park.

© PATRICK ENDRES / ALASKAPHOTOGRAPHICS



1970s Endangered Spe-

agencies to protect endan-

gered plants and animals.

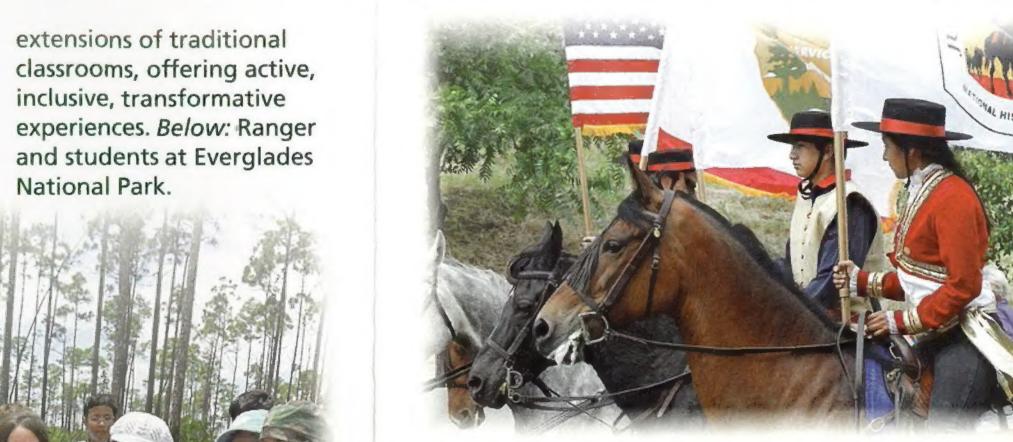
Legislation promotes role

of science in park manage-

cies Act requires federal

1990s NPS approaches new millennium, focusing on resource protection, accessibility, leadership in education and scientific research, professionalism, and partnerships.

2016 National Park Service celebrates centennial and charts course for the second century.



YOURS, MINE, AND OURS National parks reveal a comprehensive national identity. Parks interpret and commemorate pivotal movements and moments in the nation's diverse cultural history. This offers Trail.

everyone a more complete understanding of our past and present, and guides us toward an inclusive future. Above: Color guard representing the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic



Along with the gift of the national parks comes the responsibility to preserve them for those who follow. Left: Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

National Park Service www.nps.gov

National Park Foundation www.nationalparks.org

National Park Service.
CENTENNIAL





